

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for managing physical assets, comprises:
 2 a computer database that tracks physical assets based on a unique code embedded in
 3 a machine scannable identifying label attachable to the physical assets;
 4 a plurality of scanners capable of reading the identifying labels;
 5 a communications link between the scanners and the computer database; and
 6 wherein the identifying label is scanned by the scanners and the unique identification
 7 information is transmitted over the communications link to the computer database at each
 8 point in a cycle of change in status of the item.

1 2. The system of claim 1 further comprising sending location information to the
 2 computer database along with the unique the unique identification.

1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the unique identifying code is unique for all
 2 items tracked by the system and no two parts of different classes and not two items of a class
 3 of items tracked will share the same identification

1 4. The system of claim 3 wherein the unique identifying code is associated with
 2 data in the computer database that describes the item being tracked.

1 5. The system of claim 4 wherein the data comprises information specific to the
 2 item of inventory.

1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the identifying label is scanned when the item
 2 of inventory is moved.

1 7. The system of claim 1 further comprising a database server connected so as to
 2 be able to query the computer database responsive to a user inquiry.

1 8. The system of claim 7 wherein the database server is connected to a network.

1 9. The system of claim 8 wherein the network comprises the World Wide Web.

1 10. The system of claim 8 wherein the location of the item of inventory is updated
2 in real time to the database.

1 11. The system of claim 5 wherein the information about the item of inventory
2 comprises information specific to the item.

1 12. The system of claim 1 wherein the communications link is wireless.

1 13. The system of claim 1 wherein a vendor is connected to the communications
2 link to the database and provides information about the item of inventory to the database.

1 14. A method of asset management comprising:
2 providing a central computer database having records of tracked items identified by a
3 unique identifying code;
4 providing a communications link between a scanner and the central computer
5 database and at each point in a cycle of change in status of the item scanning the machine
6 scannable label when the item status is changed; and
7 transmitting the information scanned to the central computer database.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the item status comprises location and
2 scanning, encodes the location in each status update.

1 16. The method of claim 14 wherein the central database provides users of the
2 method real-time sharing of relevant information such as order status, stocking location,
3 notifications, or any other special instructions.

1 17. The method of claim 14 further comprising:
2 uniquely identifying which specific product classes deserve tracking, and for each
3 unit of each class that deserves tracking;
4 assigning a unique identifier number, which is physically placed on the item wherever
5 possible, the unique identifier is unique for all items tracked by the system, unlike serial

6 numbers and the like, no two parts of different classes or within the same class possesses the
7 same unique identification.

1 18. The method of claim 14 further comprising:
2 a logistical asset management network and process that are used together as a
3 feedback system that allows for the tracking of items, providing real time data on which
4 identified products status.

1 19. The method of claim 14 status comprises:
2 tracking that items installed at a customer location, inventory, disposed of or being
3 repaired to provide data to the central database concerning the ultimate disposition of each
4 product.

1 20. The method of claim 14 wherein the logistical asset management network,
2 comprises:
3 an electronic data interchange network that links multiple computer systems in order
4 to track the status and usage history, via the unique identifier numbers in various locations on
5 a real-time basis.

1 21. The method of claim 14 wherein the logistical asset management network and
2 process includes three data-exchange points installation, maintenance, and disposal.